

Message Text

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EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH

REF: STATE 178407

BEGIN SUMMARY: FORNMIN HAS INDICATED ROKG WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH POLITICAL INITIATIVE OUTLINED REFTEL AND DISCUSSED QUESTION OF VOTING PRIORITY ON KOREAN ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED POINTS REFTEL WITH FORNMIN PAK TONG-JIN JULY 20. FORNMIN SAID HE WOULD PASS THEM ON TO PRESIDENT PARK, BUT FELT SURE THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

2. FORNMIN PARK THEN SUGESTED WE RESPOND POSITIVELY IF PRESS QUESTIONED DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING SPEECH AS TO WHETHER WE HAD GIVEN PRC ADVANCE NOTICE OF INITIATIVE, AND AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT OUR INTENTIONS WERE IN THIS REGARD. PARK ALSO ASKED FOR PRECISE TIME SECRETARY'S SPEECH WOULD BE DELIVERED AND RELEASED TO PRESS SO ROKG COULD COORDINATE RELEASE OF ITS OWN RELEASE ROK STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR OUR INITIATIVE

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECRETARY'S SPEECH. IF ASKED BY PRESS

(AS HE IS SURE TO BE) WHETHER WE CONSULTED ROKG IN ADVANCE REGARDING INITIATIVE, PARK INTENDS TO REPLY AFFIRMATIVELY.

3. FOLLOWING ABOVE QUESTIONS, PARK TURNED TO QUESTION OF VOTING PRIORITY. HE SAID HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION DEPARTMENT DID NOT ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO WINNING PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, AND AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THIS. IN HIS OWN VIEW HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN IN THIS REGARD. IN CONSIDERING PRIORITY QUESTION MAINTAINING CONSISTENCY WITH OUR OVERALL APPROACH TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WAS FIRST CONSIDERATION. IF ON OTHER HAND WE CLEARLY FORESAW CONFRONTATION OVER KOREAN ISSUE AT UNGA, VOTING MARGIN WAS BOUND TO BE SMALL, AND PRIORITY COULD BE OF MATERIAL ADVANTAGE.

4. ROKG, SAID PARK, CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT COMPOSITION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE WILL BE MORE FAVORABLE THIS YEAR AND THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO WIN DEFERMENT OF DEBATE THERE. FRANCE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN THIS EFFORT PARK THOUGHT, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT IF IT AGREED FRANCE MIGHT MOVE FOR DEFERMENT OF BOTH RESOLUTIONS IN GENERAL COMMITTEE WITHOUT INITIAL ROK/US SUPPORT, SO AS TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF CONNIVANCE AND ENHANCE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. IF ON OTHER HAND WE WERE TO ANTICIPATE THAT GENERAL COMMITTEE EFFORT WOULD NOT SUCCEED AND CONFRONTATION WERE UNAVOIDABLE THEN ROKG WOULD FEEL MUCH MORE "COMFORTABLE" IF WE HAD PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. AT CONCLUSION OF THESE REMARKS AMBASSADOR AND FORMININ AGREED THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE TIME BEING TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS AS RESULT OF RENEWED POLITICAL INITIATIVE AND IN NON-ALIGNED MEETING BEFORE DECIDING PRIORITY QUESTION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO FORNMIN'S QUESTIONS PARA 2 ABOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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